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Weekend, January 22-24, 2016 metro.us | t: MetroNewYork | f: Metrc rk

Is Zac Efron more than his abs? 15

MOVIES WILL GET BETTER SOON

Comic book and Coens films are around the corner. 16

Sure bets for AFC, NFC title games. 18

HOW BAD WILL IT GET?

Meteorologist John Bolaris says New York will be spared the worst of the storm and the mayor says the city is ready for whatever comes. 6 & 8

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RISE IN JOBLESS CLAIMS

1 The number of Americans filing for unemployment benefits rose to a six-month high last week, suggesting some loss of momentum in the labor market amid a sharp economic slowdown and major stock market selloff. Another report showed factory activity in the mid-Atlantic region improved in January as shipments rebounded, but still contracted for a fifth straight month. That indicates national manufacturing activity remained in the doldrums. REUTERS

RAPE COP SENTENCED

2 A former Oklahoma City police officer convicted of raping four women and sexually assaulting several others while he was on duty faced the possibility of life in prison at a sentencing hearing Thursday. In December, an Oklahoma City jury found Daniel Holtzclaw, 29, guilty on 18 of 36 charges of sexual assault, including rape. He faces up to 263 years in prison. Prosecutors said he preyed on women who had trouble with the law and forced them into sex, hoping their word would not hold up against his in court. REUTERS

REAL-TIME SPORTS

3 Facebook is tackling the sports arena with a platform called Facebook Sports Stadium, which the social media site said will provide real-time updates on games, popular posts from fans, statistics and commentary from experts. The service appears to be an effort to encroach on Twitter's territory. REUTERS

COW GETS LOOSE IN QUEENS

7 Traffic in Queens had to move over on Thursday for a four-legged animal looking for a way out. The NYPD reported that a cow was on the loose in Jamaica after 12:30 p.m. and the 103rd Precinct, which patrols the neighborhood, later tweeted photos of the captured animal inside a parking garage. The precinct reported no injuries and showed the cow being placed inside a trailer. According to DNAinfo, the cow had escaped from a slaughterhouse near where it was caught and although the animal got its hour of freedom — it is expected to be killed on Friday.

7 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

MAIN PHOTO BY TWIITER @ NYPD103PCT, ALL OTHER PHOTOS BY GETTY IMAGES

SHOOTING EX AT DAY CARE

4 A Bronx man was indicted Wednesday on a murder charge for fatally shooting his ex-girlfriend in 2015 outside of their daughter's day care center in Harlem, according to authorities. Eugene Miller, 32, has been charged with murder in the second degree for the death of 30-year-old Rosetta Ewell. METRO

GOOGLE MAPS

TRAIN PUNCH SUSPECT

5 Police have released the sketch of a violent 6 train rider who they said assaulted another woman on a Manhattan subway last month. The suspect was onboard the southbound 6 train at about 8:30 a.m. on Dec. 22 as it was approaching the 42nd Street/Grand Central station when the attack occurred, cops said. CRISTABELLE TUMOLA

NYPD

FIGHTER JET CRASHES

6 An F-16 fighter jet crashed in rough terrain in remote central Arizona on Thursday, Air Force officials said. The $25 million jet is assigned to the 56th Fighter Wing at Luke Air Force Base in Glendale, a suburb of Phoenix, officials said. The crash occurred about 100 miles northwest of the base. REUTERS

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Discrimination against disabled is New York City's most frequent rights complaint

Policies need to change in order to level playing field for the disabled, according to an advocate.

ANGY ALTAMIRANO
@MetroNewYork
letters@metro.us

Although society is moving forward to make sure all people are treated equally and have the right to a happy life — one group continues to feel left out and hopes more can be done.

The city's Commission on Human Rights released a report that said in 2015 it had opened a total of 778 investigations of discrimination — marking a 24-percent increase from the previous year.

Out of those cases, disability-related complaints were seen to be the most common, making up 31 percent of all cases. Race and gender-related discrimination complaints followed respectively at 20 and 18 percent.

From the disability complaints, there were three kinds that were most common received by the agency. The first surrounded complaints on disability access involving individuals who rely on wheelchairs or other mobility assistive devices and their inability to access housing and public accommodations because of broken elevators or lack of ramps.

Complaints also surfaced from those with disabilities who use service animals and were denied access or service in both housing and public accommodation.

The final were complaints by employees who had been fired or got negative response from employers when time was taken off to deal with a disability.

"The NYC Commission on Human Rights works aggressively to resolve all complaints of discrimination in New York City, including disability discrimination," CHR Commissioner Carmelyn P. Malalis said. "People with disabilities deserve the same rights, opportunities and access as everyone else in this city and it's unacceptable to treat them any differently."

A woman wheels through a hallway. GETTY IMAGES

For Alex Elegudin, president of Wheeling Forward, said that although society is moving toward providing equality for all other groups, disabled individuals still get short shrift.

"The fact that disability-related complaints lead the way is not a surprise," Elegudin said. "If the policies, infrastructures are not there in the first place to stop those kinds of bad acts, it's going to have to be dealt with on the complaint part."

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BRIEF

Drug exec Shkreli to take the Fifth at hearing: letter

Former drug executive Martin Shkreli plans to assert his right against self-incrimination and remain silent if he is forced to appear next week at a congressional hearing about drug prices, according to a letter seen by Reuters.

Shkreli's lawyer informed the U.S. House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of his intent not to answer questions and asked that Shkreli be excused from appearing, committee chairman Jason Chaffetz wrote in the letter dated Wednesday to his lawyer, Baruch Weiss.

Shkreli, who created a fire storm last year after raising the price of Daraprim, a life-saving medicine by more than 5,000 percent, is also facing federal criminal charges that he defrauded investors.

Chaffetz, a Utah Republican, wrote to Weiss that Shkreli could face criminal prosecution for contempt if he fails to appear at the hearing, scheduled for Tuesday. "Mr. Shkreli is uniquely qualified to answer questions about rising prescription drug prices," Chaffetz wrote.

Shkreli told lawmakers on Twitter on Thursday: "Your attempt to subvert my constitutional right to the 5th amendment are disgusting & insulting to all Americans."

The lawmaker held out the possibility of a compromise, writing that the committee may agree to hear testimony in a non-public session or to immunize the testimony so that it could not be used in the criminal prosecution.

The Fifth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution states that no person shall be compelled in any criminal case "to be a witness against himself." REUTERS

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BOLARIS: 'BEAST IN THE EAST' TIMELINE

Bolaris' Weather Watch

JOHN BOLARIS
@weathersavior

It's crunch time, as the clock is ticking and a full-fledged nor'easter will begin slowly twisting up and along the East Coast on Friday night. The big question is just how far north the heavy snow line will extend into the Northeast and will it make it into Southern New England. I have looked at every single computer model over and over again, certain trends, better performers, and some history and this is how this eventual "Beast in the East" will impact the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast.

First I will play the elimination game, and right now I believe Boston will dodge the heavy snow bullet, with the southern-facing shores of the Capes standing the best chance of receiving significant snow. Boston might only muster up an inch or two, perhaps 3 to 4 inches the way I see it now.

New York City and across Long Island will be on the Northern periphery of the heavy snow bands, missing a paralyzing blizzard, but still I would put it in the major category due to the very strong winds, snow amounts exceeding 6 inches for most, but not for everyone, as there will be a sharp cutoff from heavy snow to only some light snow with little accumulation just to the north of NYC.

The bulls-eye for this storm is setting up across D.C., Baltimore, and Philadelphia where snow amounts in some places will exceed 18 inches.

Here's the setup:

A strong arctic high is anchored over northern New England and will act as a cold funnel feed, keeping I-95 corridor sector all snow. Right now I'm not looking at any changeover to rain in D.C., Philly or NYC, although during the height of the storm there could be some sleet mixing in during Saturday afternoon and early evening.

The storm system, loaded with moisture from the Gulf of Mexico. will be moving out of the Tennessee Valley during the day on Friday, and then redevelop off the North Carolina coast late Friday night. Rapid intensification will take place Saturday morning just off the Virginia coast with a plume of intense snow banding taking place to the north and west of the rapidly deepening storm. This will place D.C. and Philadelphia in the excessive-snow banding. Rates of 1-2 inches per hour along with wind gusts to 35-40-plus mph will make for periods of whiteout conditions.

The storm will stall for a time just off the coast, and then I see a more easterly shift, then a northeasterly move. This will still need to be watched closely.

Major tidal flooding will impact many coastal areas, with southern New Jersey, Delaware and Virginia to be hit the hardest. Northern New Jersey should see mainly moderate coastal flooding. Two to three high-tide cycles will produce most of the flooding, with the back bays getting hammered as the strong easterly winds will not allow the bays to drain. To boot, we have a full moon to contend with, adding to a higher tide than normal.

Localized major tidal flooding will also be experienced across all of Long Island, New York harbor and on into the Capes of Southern New England. Wind gusts along the Jersey and Delaware shores could exceed 55 mph.

The brunt of the storm will take place for Philadelphia and NYC mainly during Saturday afternoon and night with D.C. seeing the teeth by early Saturday morning.

New York

- Snow arrives after midnight.
- Saturday: Wind-driven periods of heavy snow, mainly in the afternoon. White-out conditions possible at times. Wind gusts 35+ mph. Sharp cut-off line of heavy snow as you move north.
- Anywhere north of White Plains, snow amounts drop off sharply.
- Long Island: Windswept bands of snow. Whiteout conditions at times. However I believe snow amounts will be capped between 5-9 inches (generally) as the heaviest bands of snow could remain just south of Long Island.
- NYC: After 8 p.m.: Snow should taper off. Very windy and cold.
- Total snow : NYC: 6-9 Inches
- South Shore bays of Long Island will see major flooding.
- Sunday: Clearing

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NYC ready for a big storm: De Blasio

New Yorkers are asked to take precautions and stay off the roads starting Saturday morning.

ANGY ALTAMIRANO
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Mayor de Blasio speaks about the storm. GETTY IMAGES

Cancel any big plans and be prepared to stay home this weekend.

That was the message Mayor Bill de Blasio had for New Yorkers on Thursday as the city prepares to get hit with this winter's first snowstorm.

According to the National Weather Service, New York City is under a blizzard watch starting Saturday morning and will last through Sunday afternoon.

"The bottom line here is that New Yorkers should be ready for a big storm this weekend, make the precautions now," de Blasio said.

Along with warning New Yorkers to only leave their homes if necessary and if having to travel to use public transportation, the mayor also outlined the plans the city will take to make sure everything runs smoothly.

The Department of Sanitation is expected to deploy 579 salt spreaders starting Friday night and 1,650 plows will be sent out when more than two inches accumulates.

The agency also has 303,000 tons of rock salt on hand and sanitation workers have been assigned to two 12-hour shifts, with 2,400 workers per shift.

A hazardous travel advisory was also issued, with the gusting winds and snow causing whiteout conditions on the roads, creating a dangerous environment for drivers.

"Anyone that has the illusion they are going to take a big trip on Saturday and Sunday, forget it," de Blasio said. "People need to take this very seriously and recognize that it's a real thing."

During Thursday morning's announcement, the mayor was questioned about last year's decisions during what was expected to be the biggest storm in history — but shifted its course last minute — to shut down the subway system and ban travel.

De Blasio said that at the time the decisions were made based on what was initially expected from the storm and that the city has "learned some good lessons" after what happened.

He added that there will be more communication and coordination between agencies on the city and state levels.

In regards to public transportation, the MTA announced that the subway and bus system, Metro-North and Long Island Rail Road are preparing for the storm to ensure reliable and safe service. MTA personnel will clear platforms and stairs, while also dropping salt.

All scheduled weekend work has been canceled and the agency has a fleet of snow and ice-busting equipment designed to keep outdoor tracks, switches and third rails clear of snow and ice.

Super-powered snow throwers, jet-powered snow-blowers, and de-icing cars — retired subway cars customized special equipment to spray de-icing fluid on the third rail — will be ready for immediate deployment.

"We have a tremendous investment in equipment, manpower and experience. However, we will only provide service as long as it's safe to do so," MTA chairman and CEO Thomas Prendergast said.

Schools are expected to be open on Monday and alternate-side parking may be canceled.

"We've all been lulled to sleep by how warm the winter's been," de Blasio said. "Take this very, very seriously. We're giving people a clear warning early."

Share your pictures

Winter storm Jonas is heading our way and we want your snow pics!

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"People need to take this very seriously and recognize that it's a real thing."
de Blasio

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Protect yourself while dating online

The risk of sexual assault on a date with a stranger you meet on the Web is real — but most victims know their attacker.

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Be careful with digital dating. GETTY IMAGES

With about one in every 10 Americans using a dating site or app, it is important to keep in mind the possible dangers of meeting a complete stranger.

According to a Pew Research Center report, 11 percent of American adults have used dating sites in their search for romantic relationships.

And although more than half of all Internet users agree online dating is a good way to meet people and a large percentage met long-term partners or spouses through a dating site — not all encounters are positive.

About 54 percent of online daters have said they in some way felt users misrepresented themselves in their profiles, and 28 percent say they have felt harassed or uncomfortable by someone they contacted through a site.

According to Min Um-Mandhyan, director of development and communications for the New York City Alliance Against Sexual Assault, the growth of online dating means it's crucial to be cautious and understand how to ensure your own safety.

Social media profiles can provide some surface info on potential dates. Background checks and sex-offender registries are other ways to investigate.

Um-Mandhyan added that recognizing red flags of an abusive relationship — such as a date who's aggressive or jealous — is also important.

Um-Mandhyan also said it is imperative for dating sites and apps to take responsibility for all their users, and to offer support in cases where a user is being intimidated or harassed by another.

"Creating an online dating community with no tolerance for predatory behavior and sexual assault should be up to service providers," Um-Mandhyan said. "They should proactively run thorough background checks on all users. They should make users aware of symptoms of dating violence and support users who report any suspicious activities and investigate them in a timely manner."

Sites such as eHarmony do offer users a list of the do's and don'ts. A few big ones: Let a friend know about your date before you go, always meet in a public place and don't drink too much.

But although those safety tips can be lifesavers, there's no way to prevent sexual assault 100 percent, said Amy Edelstein, director of the Safe Horizon Staten Island Community Program — in one horrifying incident last week, a woman was raped by a man she met on eHarmony at the Port Authority.

According to data obtained by Safe Horizon, Edelstein said, there has been no noticeable uptick in sexual assaults from online dating meetups. She said most sexual assault incidents involve people in a current or former intimate relationship.

"It really is a protective factor that people grab onto the myth that you are most vulnerable to sexual assault when you meet strangers," Edelstein said. Most sexual violence comes from a person known to a victim, Edelstein said.

While there's no single thing you can do to ensure you won't become a victim, some Google sleuthing, and checking in with a trusted friend before and after your date, may ease your mind.

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Marathon lottery illegal: Lawsuit

The organizers of the New York City Marathon have been sued by two runners who said the use of a lottery to decide who gets to race in the world's largest marathon is illegal.

In a proposed class-action lawsuit filed on Thursday in the U.S. District Court in Manhattan, Utah residents Charles Konopa and Matthew Clark said the nonprofit New York Road Runners Inc. violated New York's constitution by operating a lottery because only the state itself can run chance-based lotteries.

The plaintiffs seek $10.56 million of damages, or twice the estimated amount collected from several hundred thousand runners who from 2010 to 2015 paid $11 nonrefundable fees to try to qualify for the marathon.

NYC Marathon GETTY IMAGES

They also want an injunction against further lotteries until the Road Runners comply with state gaming laws. Both plaintiffs said they paid to enter the marathon lottery and did not win.

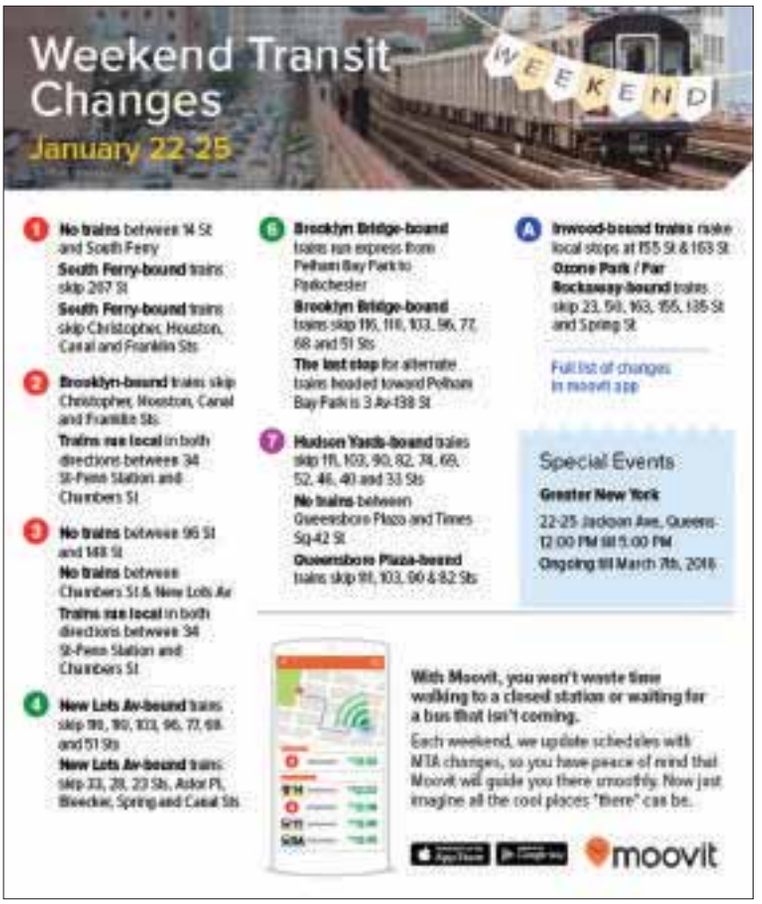
The Road Runners did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Lawyers for the plaintiffs did not immediately respond to similar requests.

The 26.2-mile marathon through New York City's five boroughs has been run every year since 1970, except for 2012 in the wake of Hurricane Sandy.

Nearly 99 percent of the 50,235 runners from 125 countries who started the race last Nov. 1 finished, including an 84-year-old woman from the Netherlands.

Thursday's complaint was filed on the same day the Road Runners opened a one-month window for runners to apply for this year's marathon, which is scheduled for Nov. 6.

According to the complaint, fewer than 18 percent of lottery participants win spots in the race each year, and only 14 percent of the more than 80,000 participants did so in 2015. REUTERS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3 No trains between 96 St and 148 St
No trains between Chambers St & New Lots Av
Trains run local in both directions between 34 St-Penn Station and Chambers St
4 New Lots Av-bound trains skip 191, 110, 103, 96, 72, 68 and 51 Sts
New Lots Av-bound trains skip 33, 28, 23 Sts, Astor Pl, Bleecker, Spring and Canal Sts
6 Brooklyn Bridge-bound trains run express from Pelham Bay Park to Parkchester
Brooklyn Bridge-bound trains skip 116, 110, 103, 96, 77, 68 and 51 Sts
The last stop for alternate trains headed toward Pelham Bay Park is 3 Av-138 St
7 Hudson Yards-bound trains skip 111, 103, 90, 82, 74, 69, 52, 46, 40 and 33 Sts
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#OSCARSSOWHITE FLAP IS A FIRST-WORLD PROBLEM

THE ERNEST OPINION

ERNEST OWENS
@MrErnestOwens

By now, you probably know about the ongoing backlash surrounding the all-white acting nominations at this year's Academy Awards for a second year in a row.

#OscarsSoWhite, the infamous hashtag being used to spotlight the controversy, has gone viral again — further sparking conversations about diversity issues in Hollywood.

But why did it take another year of award snubs to bring us back to this topic in the first place?

Looking closely, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences is predominately white, male, and older – recent stats cite voters as 94 percent white, 76 percent male, with an average age of 63. So regardless of nomination outcome, the problem is larger than that.

Which is why I'm not personally a fan of what appears to be a very narrow-minded push to boycott the Oscars.

For one, industry award shows are political and petty. Often times, big studio heads and brands dominate campaigns to get certain actors and films consideration. Does the name Harvey Weinstein ring a bell? The well-known film producer and co-chairman of The Weinstein Company is notorious for pushing such films as "Shakespeare in Love," "The Artist" and "The King's Speech" into Oscar-winning glory.

Which suggests that perhaps the problem is beyond just getting nominated, but the nature of the business itself. There is a lack of black filmmakers, producers, directors that are even a part of the industry to play such politics. And for decades, black entertainers have had to rely on white corporate figureheads to invite them to the table.

For any black entertainer to simply be disgruntled with the Oscars now because of not being one of the few, the proud or the only to be nominated — is a first-world issue. To boycott the vested interests that continue to hold the strings isn't smart, either.

One solution that could work would be for the conversation and suggested activism to shift away from award shows in general. They aren't going away anytime soon, and just because you have a good year for diversity wins doesn't mean the deep-seated industry issues are resolved.

I would encourage black celebrities such as Will Smith, Spike Lee and host Chris Rock to use their global influence to push for industry changes year-round and not just during awards season. Because it seems as though there is a level of self-centeredness when using award show rejection as a catalyst for complaining about problems in the business elsewhere.

Jada Pinkett Smith GETTY IMAGES

I argue that Smith's wife, actress Jada Pinkett Smith, wouldn't have made her recent viral video urging others to boycott the Oscars if her husband would have been nominated for his role in "Concussion."

But again, these are first-world problems. Meanwhile in Flint, Michigan, there are predominately poor black communities drinking contaminated lead-infused water.

Hopefully these very passionate celebrities can channel their energies about missing one less industry award to actually saving lives.

But perhaps I'm just reaching for the stars, literally.

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"Hail, Caesar!" (Feb. 5)

If you're a fan of Karina Longworth's addictive podcast about Old Hollywood, "You Must Remember This," you're the target audience for the latest Coen brothers joint. Then again, so is anyone who loves when they go full-on funny. Another one of their movies about idiots, à la "Burn After Reading," it follows a scarily effective Tinseltown "fixer" (Josh Brolin) based on — and actually named — Eddie Mannix, who has to track down a star (George Clooney) who's gone AWOL from a shoot in the 1950s. There's also ScarJo doing Busby Berkeley-style numbers.

George Clooney brings back his old '90s Caesar cut as a 1950s Hollywood star in "Hail, Caesar!" **UNIVERSAL**

wknd

THE FUN STARTS HERE

The best new dumb-fun films

If you're going to leave your warm apartment for the bleak outside world, it better be for something worthwhile. Good thing we're getting lots of big comic book movies and sequels. Oh, and there's also a Coen brothers film. **MATT PRIGGE**

"DEADPOOL" (FEB. 12)

So Marvel movies are intentionally funny now, huh? Briefly seen in the dreaded first "Wolverine" movie, Ryan Reynolds' costumed badass has been repurposed as a quip-slinger prone to even broader jokes than the ones in "Ant-Man." The movie's also rated R, a first for the brand, suggesting it might be closer to the dark, sick humor of the comics.

"Deadpool" **TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX**

"ZOOLANDER NO. 2" (FEB. 12)

Penelope Cruz joins Owen Wilson and Ben Stiller. **PARAMOUNT PICTURES**

Hey, the kids who started school when 2001's first dalliance with Ben Stiller and Owen Wilson's mindless fashion gods came out are now starting to pay back their undergrad loans! That is all. Except now we're thinking about the David Bowie cameo in the original, and thus about David Bowie, and oh man, how great was David Bowie?

"GODS OF EGYPT" (FEB. 26)

Hollywood doesn't make enough bats—t crazy doozies, so cherish whatever the hell this is, which appears to be Gerard Butler screeching while that one guy from "Game of Thrones" turns into reptiles or something. If it doesn't open with a disembodied head vomiting up exposition à la "Zardoz," there is no god.

"Gods of Egypt" **LIONSGATE**

"BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE" (MAR. 25)

The trailers are annoying, Ben Affleck is miscast, the DC Comics movies are supergloomy and Zack Snyder is a terrible director — but this tag-team effort also cost $200 million. And it's the first one in a Marvel Cinematic Universe-esque world-building attempt for the other major comics label. Seeing it is like voting: You have to do it, we guess.

Ben Affleck broods as Batman. Of course. **WARNER BROS. PICTURES**

"THE JUNGLE BOOK" (APR. 15)

Not to be confused with next year's "Jungle Book: Origins," Disney's reboot of one of its most beloved products mixes live action with star-voiced critters, filled by the likes of Bill Murray, Lupita Nyong'o and Christopher Walken.

Neel Sethi's Mogwai bros with an Idris Elba-voiced Shere Khan. **DISNEY**

"THE HUNTSMAN: WINTER'S WAR" (APR. 22)

Kristen Stewart was too busy winning the French equivalent of the Oscar and kicking ass in small movies like "Clouds of Sils Maria" to return for the "Snow White" sequel. Actually, it's a prequel about the sister of Charlize Theron's witch, played by Jessica Chastain, who is fitted with the power to turn things into ice. Just like "Frozen"! Kind of exactly like "Frozen"!

Emily Blunt joins Charlize Theron in the second "Huntsman." **UNIVERSAL PICTURES**

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Is Zac Efron secretly good?

With "Dirty Grandpa" out this weekend, we look at the many (or few) sides of its chiseled star.

MATT PRIGGE
@mattprigge
matt.prigge@metro.us

Oh my god, Efron's 2009 hair in "17 Again." NEW LINE CINEMA

This year the first "High School Musical" movie turns 10 years old. You can't say it's too early to tell if its Abercrombie-and-abs male lead, one Zac Efron, is secretly a talented thespian. After all, he's been in the game since the 1989 TV movie "Triple Play."

And yet it's still hard to figure out what to think of him. This much we do know: When he's making fun of himself and his broish stature, he's very good. When he popped up as a Pabst-crushing, devious frat lord in "Neighbors" (which he does again in its sequel, due in May), it was seen as a revelation. But he quietly telegraphed a real panic: Maybe boozing through college was his peak. Maybe he can do nothing but take his shirt off. You could even sense the real Efron freaking out underneath his perfectly sculpted figure.

He had good reason to worry: When he's tried out serious roles — in Richard Linklater's "Me and Orson Welles," and in Ramin Bahrani's "At Any Price" — he was bland and vacant. Lee Daniels used that well in his reliably insane "The Paperboy," in which the pretty boy did little but bop about in his undies. When he tried to cut loose with the rom-com "The Awkward Moment," he came off as heartless instead of funny and charming.

And yet this summer he surprised us again. Yes, everyone hated the DJ drama "We Are Your Friends," and it had one of the worst opening weekends of any wide release in history. But Efron actually found a touching soulfulness to his young, precocious and foolish aspiring music maker. It suggested he might evolve into a strong dramatic actor — or at least better than he was in the Nicholas Sparks outing "The Lucky One."

Whazzup! Zac Efron was actually super good in 2014's hit "Neighbors." UNIVERSAL

A look at young Zac

"17 Again" (2009)
Before Zac Efron started ambitiously taking on roles, hoping to garner comparisons to Leonardo DiCaprio, he was happy to take shallow parts typecasting himself as the pretty boy heartthrob with funny one-liners. It's a card he played well, and "17 Again" is fun to watch.

"Charlie St. Cloud" (2009)
This Nicholas Sparks adaptation was an unfortunate turning point for Efron. The movie is so cheesy it's hard to watch. While the movie doesn't allow Efron to showcase his comedy skills, it at least let him flaunt his other greatest asset: his abs.

A definitive ranking of Zac Efron's best shirtless scenes

Zac Efron is more than just a pretty face. His body is desktop-background-worthy, too. Here, we roundup his absolute best shirtless scenes. Head to metro.us for the full list plus gratuitous videos.

1. "Neighbors"
Efron is at his shirtless peak as the frat bro in "Neighbors," and the "Neighbors 2" trailer teases at more half-naked goodness. It's no wonder at the end of the movie his character finds his true calling: as an Abercrombie & Fitch employee.

2. "The Lucky One"
This Nicholas Sparks adaptation is almost too cheesy to watch. Efron plays a Marine who almost died in combat. He credits his survival to a photo of a pretty girl, deeming it his good luck charm. After he comes back from deployment, he decides to hunt her down. The movie has few redeeming qualities, but it does gift the world with Efron's hottest sex scene yet.

3. 'Dirty Grandpa"
Whoever came up with the idea to make Efron do the macarena half-naked deserves a sincere slow clap. But putting him next to a shirtless Robert de Niro? Well, we can live without that.

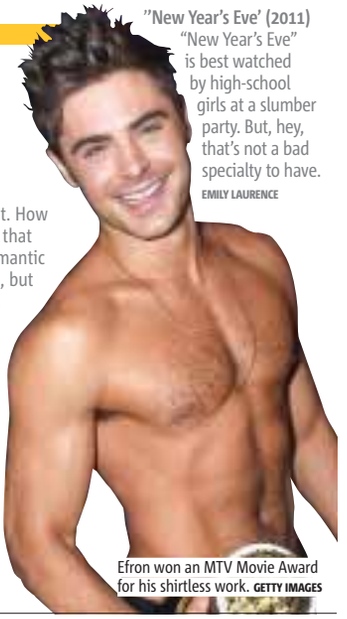
4. "That Awkward Moment"
Efron even looks sexy while planking a toilet. How many people can pull that off? Overall, this bro-mantic comedy is forgettable, but those shirtless scenes are not.

5. "The Paperboy"
This time, Efron is naked and wet — thanks, Hollywood! Normally tighty-whiteys on a grown man is unappealing, but Nicole Kidman doesn't mind, and neither do we.

EMILY LAURENCE

''New Year's Eve' (2011)
"New Year's Eve" is best watched by high-school girls at a slumber party. But, hey, that's not a bad specialty to have.

EMILY LAURENCE



Efron won an MTV Movie Award for his shirtless work. GETTY IMAGES

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"Ip Man 3"

Director: Wilson Yip
Stars: Donnie Yen, Mike Tyson
Rating: PG-13

●●●○○

Donnie Yen kicks some ass (again). WELL GO USA

In real life, martial arts god Ip Man led a relatively quiet life, ascetically honing his craft and training the likes of Bruce Lee. In "Ip Man 3," he fights gangsters, a hotheaded colleague and Mike Tyson. Print the legend, goes the line — or better yet, make it up. The three "Ip Man" films —not to be confused with all the many other films about Ip Man, the best being Wong Kar-wai's melancholic "The Grandmaster" — are full-on fan fiction, inventing squabbles and even hardships, turning an often modest life into one of relentless, punchy-kicky drama.

Mixing massive amounts of fiction into fact, making winking references, gratuitously shoe-horning in a pugilistic legend just 'cause — all are par for course for a series that, ultimately, doesn't take itself seriously. Perhaps if there weren't a dozen or more Ip Man films the faithless and silly "Ip Man 3" would feel like a crime. Ditto if director Wilson Yip didn't know how to shoot action. MATT PRIGGE

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Chloe Grace Moretz and hunky Alex Roe try to survive a YA apocalypse in "The 5th Wave." COLUMBIA PICTURES

"The 5th Wave"

Director: J Blakeson
Stars: Chloe Grace Moretz, Nick Robinson
Rating: PG-13

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"The 5th Wave" opens with its willowy hero (Chloe Grace Moretz) accidentally killing an unarmed man. Will this be the dark YA movie? Or will it be the "dark" YA movie — the one that starts like a teen take on "The Road" (but with aliens!) yet quickly retreats into the safety of chaste romances, shirtless supernatural bros and, most charitably of all, slumming master thespians earning their summer homes?

The answer comes quickly, right when Moretz's breathy yammering fills the token narration track, catching us up to speed with the setup and her feels. Her Cassie is a survivor of a knockoff "Independence Day" attack. Armed with a Wayne LaPierre-approved assault weapon, Cassie watched as her parents and bestie died — but, hey, who's that hunky, resourceful, slightly older guy (Alex Roe) who chops wood and bathes in lakes? Meanwhile a former classmate/crush (Nick Robinson) finds himself recruited into a kid army led by Liev Schreiber and Maria Bello (looking very '80s Bond villainess). Their broadly telegraphed ulterior motives are apparently supposed to be a third act twist.

The tone, as to be expected, is dreary and humorless and wannabe-tough. And yet "The 5th Wave" is, after its genocidal first act, nearly all soft. Moretz, for once, is a problem: freaky-eyed, ever-panting and in a permanent state of near tears. The film itself is fragile in another way. As it soldiers on to its big nonreveal and a distractingly rushed climax, it becomes clear this was a troubled production that couldn't even coherently set up its requisite love triangle. No amount of "hard PG-13" atrocities and leftfield homages to "They Live" — plus a truly non-sequitur shoutout to Tim Burton's "Big Fish" — can save a film that, in trying to be more than a YA movie, becomes one of the worst. MP

Pretty boys Garrett Hedlund and Oscar Isaac face off in "Mojave." A24

"Mojave"

Director: William Monahan
Stars: Garrett Hedlund, Oscar Isaac
Rating: R

●●●○○

As a straight-ahead thriller you follow for its plot, "Mojave" is a wash. As a depository for cutting insults and a general air of sour sarcasm, it's good fun. "Mojave" is the second film, after "London Boulevard," directed by William Monahan, who won an Oscar for writing "The Departed," and it's as precise with its language and its tone as it's sloppy about telling a story.

It almost plays like one of those "[whatever] from hell" thrillers that plagued the '90s, too. Suffering from a manly existential crisis, Garrett Hedlund's Thomas — a brooding Hollywood player of some sort — drives out to the desert with an arsenal of Modelo, ready to taunt some coyotes into tearing him apart. Instead he finds Oscar Isaac's Jack, a mysterious drifter with gnarly hair, a gold tooth and a tendency to abuse the term "brother" more than the he-man troops in "13 Hours." One thing leads to another and soon Thomas has accidentally shot a cop. He flees, but Jack follows him back to L.A., where he proceeds to mess with him.

The drawn-out pissing contest that ensues makes more sense when you read it as a filmmaker wrestling with his own demons. Who is he more like? The anguished pretty boy Thomas, who's read too much Beatnik? Or the sociopathic Jack, who just likes to watch the world burn, for kicks? Though it bandies about deep terms like "motiveless malignity" and "infinite complexity," "Mojave" may have more in common with Jack, filled as it is with quipping assholes and a love of mocking pretension, even as it regularly delivers it on a platter. It's a movie at war with itself, and often entertainingly so, not the least thanks to a turn from current Internet boyfriend Oscar Isaac that's as game as it is delightful. MP

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Alessia Cara's "Know-It-All" tour brings her to New York on Jan. 26. MEREDITH TRUAX

Alessia Cara is not your 'antisocial pessimist'

She's actually quite the opposite.

RACHEL RACZKA
@rachelraczka
rachel.raczka@metro.us

Alessia Cara's anti-party party anthem, "Here," was inarguably the most ironically cool tune of the summer — landing her in the top 25 of Rolling Stone's best songs of 2015, coming in as runner-up in the BBC's "Sound Of" competition and dueting with Taylor Swift on the 1989 tour stop in Tampa.

The 19-year-old singer-songwriter (born Alessia Caracciolo) was discovered via YouTube, where she uploaded raspy, soulful covers from her Toronto bedroom before she was swept into a series of successes leading to her November full-length release of "Know-It-All" from Def Jam Records. Cara is now set to headline her first-ever North American tour through April .

We caught up with Cara from her hometown before her tour kicked off.

You're rumored to have started using YouTube to overcome your shyness, and now you're performing in front of a crowd almost every night. What has that been like?
Doing YouTube really helped because I was always in this weird phase where I wanted to do music, but I was always too scared. It helped me get through that because I was still singing for people and they were hearing me sing, but I didn't have to be in front of them yet.

Do you feel like you have to fulfill this role as of "loner" or "antisocial" because of "Here"?
I never really claimed to be that, you know? I think people assume that's what I am because I say "antisocial pessimist" one time. But I guess a lot of those people don't really pay attention to the lyrics and aren't really hearing what I'm trying to say. I don't think I was ever that, and I don't think I ever have to be that because that's not what I am.

I heard the host of the party from "Here" knows the song is about him.
Yeah, he's one of my friends, actually. He knows it's about him and I don't think he cares. We think it's kind of funny.

"I'm Yours" is sort of an anti-love love song. What made you to take that route?
I think whenever you hear of someone falling in love, it's like, "Oh, I'm so happy to be falling in love!" But I think a lot of the time, for me anyway, you don't want that. You get to that place where you're happy being by yourself, and someone comes along and ruins that in a way. Even though they're nice and awesome, that still kind of sucks.

What's the best industry advice you've received?
The best advice has probably been from my parents. They always tell me to take things a day at a time instead of thinking so far ahead.

What do you wish people knew about YouTube fame?
I think a lot of people think the people who become successful from online stuff have just happened overnight and they don't have credibility. For me, I was posting videos for three years before anyone even noticed and my videos still never went viral. I think people assume it happens quickly, but it takes time and you have to work for it.

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Cam Newton is looking to advance to his first Super Bowl game. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Super Bowl berths on the line this Sunday

A look at the favorites, underdogs and who to wager on in the AFC and NFC title games.

ROBERT CRISCOLA
@ItsGood2BeKing
sports@metro.us

Metro predicts which teams are headed to Santa Clara for Super Bowl 50:

New England Patriots (-3) at Denver Broncos

The Broncos won in overtime when these teams met on Nov. 29, but a different result appears very likely in this rematch. For starters, the Patriots did not have Julian Edelman in that game and Rob Gronkowski was injured in the final few minutes of regulation. With Tom Brady's offense back at full strength, even Denver's top-ranked defensive squad will have difficulty holding down the fort. The Chiefs certainly had their fair share of problems containing Edelman and Gronkowski last week; they gave up a combined 17 catches for 183 yards and two touchdowns to that duo. And the Chiefs' vaunted pass rush was unable to get to Brady even once, so it appears the Patriots have remedied their offensive line — which was considered a liability just a few weeks ago. On the other side of the ball, New England's ninth-ranked rush defense should stifle the Broncos' middling running game, and that will force Peyton Manning to win the game through the air. Denver put up only 215 yards passing last week against the Steelers, one of the worst pass-prevention units in the league, so it will probably struggle to move the ball against the Patriots' stoppers. Factor in Brady's 11-5 career record against Manning as well as a significant coaching advantage in favor of New England (Bill Belichick has won 23 playoff games compared to Gary Kubiak's three), and it's clear that the Patriots are on the inside track to Santa Clara.

The pick: Patriots -3

Dyer on the state of the Jets at **metro.us**

Arizona Cardinals at Carolina Panthers (-3)

These are arguably the two best teams in football, let alone the NFC, so this should be a great game. Both of these teams are well-oiled machines offensively, but they go about it differently. The Panthers will try to grind it out on the ground with the second-ranked rush attack in football, and while the Cardinals were sixth in stopping the run during the regular season, they gave up 135 yards on the ground to the Packers' mediocre tandem of Eddie Lacy and James Starks last week. Carolina ran wild on the Seahawks last week (144 yards), so that success should continue on Sunday. But the Panthers' 11th-ranked pass defense, which gave up 325 yards through the air and nearly let Seattle back into the game last week, will be tested early and often by Carson Palmer and Arizona's aerial attack, which was ranked second in the regular season. If the Panthers fall behind early and have to resort to the passing game, Cam Newton and company could be in trouble. Carolina's pass attack was ranked just 24th this season, and the Cardinals have the eighth-best pass prevention squad in the league. Carolina has been nearly unbeatable at home lately, but the Cardinals are 8-2 ATS in their last 10 road contests. In a game that projects to be tense from start to finish, taking the insurance points with Arizona seems like the right play.

The pick: Cardinals +3

Patriots linebacker Jonathan Freeny flexes against the Broncos in November.

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alevitan@metro.us

NFL coaches have a far bigger impact on the box score than their counterparts in basketball, baseball or hockey.

Since the game is stopped after every play, coaches can micromanage as much as they want. They can also decide to skew toward the pass, or play hurry-up. Most importantly, some are simply better at putting their players in a position to be successful.

So figuring out how players' projections will be affected by coaching changes is a massive part of our off-season job. Some initial winners:

Chipping on Hyde

Chip Kelly was one of the worst GMs this league has ever seen. That doesn't mean he's an awful coach. What's more certain than anything is that Chip's style lends itself to bloated fantasy stats. During his three years with the Eagles, his offense ranked second, first and 12th in plays per game. More plays obviously means more chances for stats. That's good news for San Francisco's best offensive player, Carlos Hyde. This is a gifted back who has averaged 4.05 YPC in his brief NFL career despite difficult circumstances. Although DeMarco Murray busted with the Eagles, remember that LeSean McCoy posted 314-1,607-9 and 213-1 and 319-5 in two seasons with Chip.

DeMarco Murray should feel much more comfortable in the running game under Doug Pederson. GETTY IMAGES

Eli gets what Eli wants

Eli Manning likes Ben McAdoo. He publicly pushed for his offensive coordinator to replace Tom Coughlin and lend the continuity that often helps a scheme. Note that since McAdoo took over the Giants' offense two years ago, Eli posted at least 4,400 yards and 30 TDs each season. In nine full seasons before that, he eclipsed those marks just one time. Seemingly always available in the double-digit rounds of fantasy drafts, Manning has finished as the QB10 in back-to-back seasons.

Marking up DeMarco

Perhaps we should have had low expectations for DeMarco Murray in 2015. He was coming off a 497-touch season, just got paid and was going to a team with major questions at the guard positions. Now it's time for a bounce-back under new coach Doug Pederson, who will run more of the power scheme Murray is suited for. Under Andy Reid in Kansas City, Pederson helped guide one of the most RB-friendly schemes in the league as seen with Jamaal Charles as well as the explosive short-term stints with Knile Davis, Charcandrick West and Spencer Ware. Murray is still just 27-years-old.

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LEGAL NOTICES

SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF QUEENS

CITIMORTGAGE, INC., Plaintiff -against- TEEPU KHAN, et al Defendant(s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered herein and dated August 13, 2015, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Queens County Supreme Courthouse 88-11 Sutphin Blvd in Courtroom #25, Jamaica NY on February 19, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. premises situate, lying and being in the Borough and County of Queens, City and State of New York, being more particularly bounded and described as follows: BEGINNING at a point on the northerly side of Lockwood Court, distant 365.00 feet westerly from the corner formed by the intersection of the northerly side of Lockwood Court with the westerly side of 104th Street; being a plot of 27.50 feet by 80 feet by 27.5 feet by 80.00 feet.

Said premises known as 102-07 LOCKWOOD COURT, HOWARD BEACH, NY Approximate amount of lien $ 566,930.08 plus interest & costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment and Terms of Sale. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. Index Number 13550/2010.

DIANA C. GIANTURCO, ESQ., Referee Sweeney Gallo Reich & Bolz, LLP Attorney(s) for Plaintiff 95-25 Queens Blvd, 11th Floor, Rego Park, NY, 11374

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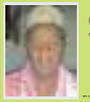

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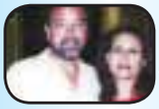

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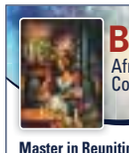

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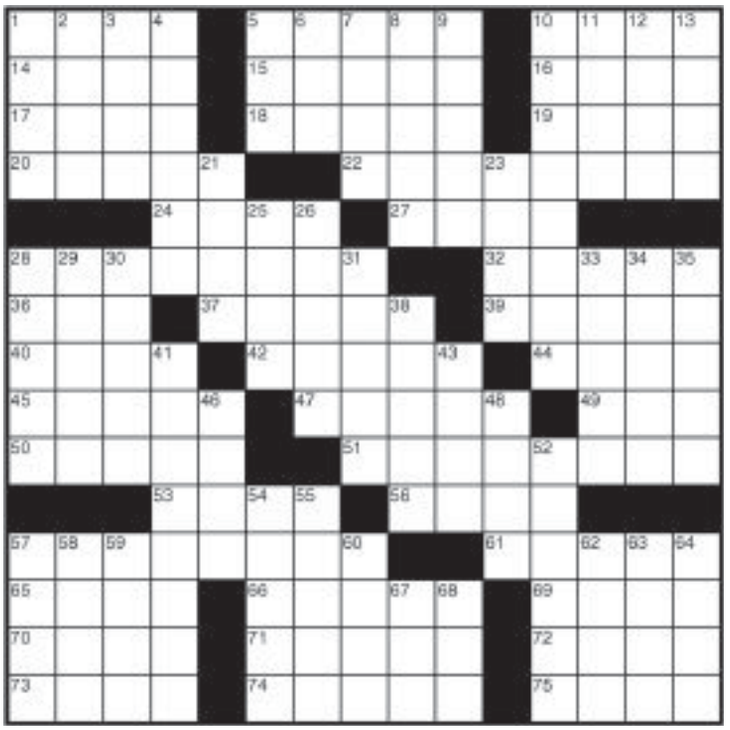

Across

1 Gets stuck
5 — Rice Burroughs
10 Time can do it
14 La senorita
15 At a slow tempo
16 Teen bane
17 Willowy
18 Show teeth
19 Desktop picture
20 Golfer Sam —
22 Pollen and honey (2 wds.)
24 Loud arguments
27 Business VIP
28 Keats wrote a poem about him
32 Waugh and Baldwin
36 Average guy
37 Vintage tune
39 Ms. Washington of blues
40 Recedes
42 Two under par
44 Pumice feature
45 Modeling media
47 Evade, as work
49 1040 pro
50 Contract provisos
51 At the same time
53 Natural elevs.
56 Pamplona runner
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65 Monthly expense
66 Pet pleas
69 Role for Liz
70 Omnia vincit —
71 Dwight opponent
72 Loaf end
73 Broadway trophy
74 Caribou and elk
75 Padlock brand

Down

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7 Clutch
8 See eye-to-eye
9 Omega rival
10 Barrette
11 Livy's "Lo!"
12 Dwarf buffalo
13 Give temporarily
21 Thank you, in Kyoto
23 Dewdrop
25 — E. Coyote
26 Fizzy drinks
28 Cockpit button
29 High-born
30 Blackball
31 Vampire's shift
33 Tennyson's — Arden
34 — diem
35 Harvest wool
38 George who was a she
41 Balance
43 Hence
46 Mach 1 breakers
48 Golden State coach
52 Quick to take offense
54 Tent dweller
55 Type of jacket
57 Confound it!
58 San — (Riviera resort)
59 Privy to (2 wds.)
60 Decorated tinware
62 Kind of collar
63 Have a hunch
64 One-and-only
67 Armed conflict
68 Lisa, to Bart

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easy

	4	3	8			2		
					2		7	
6			9	7	3	8		
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	2		5					
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hard

1			6			2	8	
	9	4			8			
8	5		7					1
			9	5		6		
5								9
		9		6	1			
7					6		2	3
			3			9	4	
	3	5			2			7

metro.us/horoscopes

Aries Don't let anyone sidetrack you with negativity and roadblocks. Go about your business and get whatever job you've been given done. Responsibility will be your saving grace.

Taurus Emotions will surface, making it easier for you to express your feelings. Say what's on your mind in order to feel better and make progress with the people you encounter.

Gemini Think about what you are doing and the results you are trying to achieve. Don't be fooled by someone offering unrealistic solutions. Bring about changes that won't put you in debt.

Cancer Accept what you cannot change, but look for alternatives to what you are stuck with. You can make a difference if you are willing to do what's necessary to achieve happiness.

Leo Sidestep without conflict anyone who gets in your way. Simply back off and go about your business. Choose not to argue. Personal success is the best revenge.

Virgo If you offer solutions, you will attract an audience. Take care of your health and well-being. Abandon bad influences or excess in any way, shape or form.

Libra Stay under the radar. You will stand a better chance of gaining acceptance if you present a flawless plan. Don't share until you are prepared to face questions, opposition and negativity.

Scorpio It would be good to reconnect with an old co-worker. Together, you can build something concrete, implementing old ideas with new trends.

Sagittarius Reflect upon your past and present, and adjust whatever needs to be changed in order to get back on track. Overindulgence will drag you down, but solutions will prop you up.

Capricorn No one is perfect. Have patience and listen to what others have to say before you respond. Let your intuition guide you to make the right decision and take the proper action.

Aquarius Travel and matters involving an authority figure or foreigners are favored. Stick to the rules and look at the fine print in order to avoid a mistake or loss. Make every move count.

Pisces Keep your plans reasonable. If you take on too much, you could overextend yourself. Use your head and focus on frugal methods to reach your goal. **EUGENIA LAST**

Yesterday's answers

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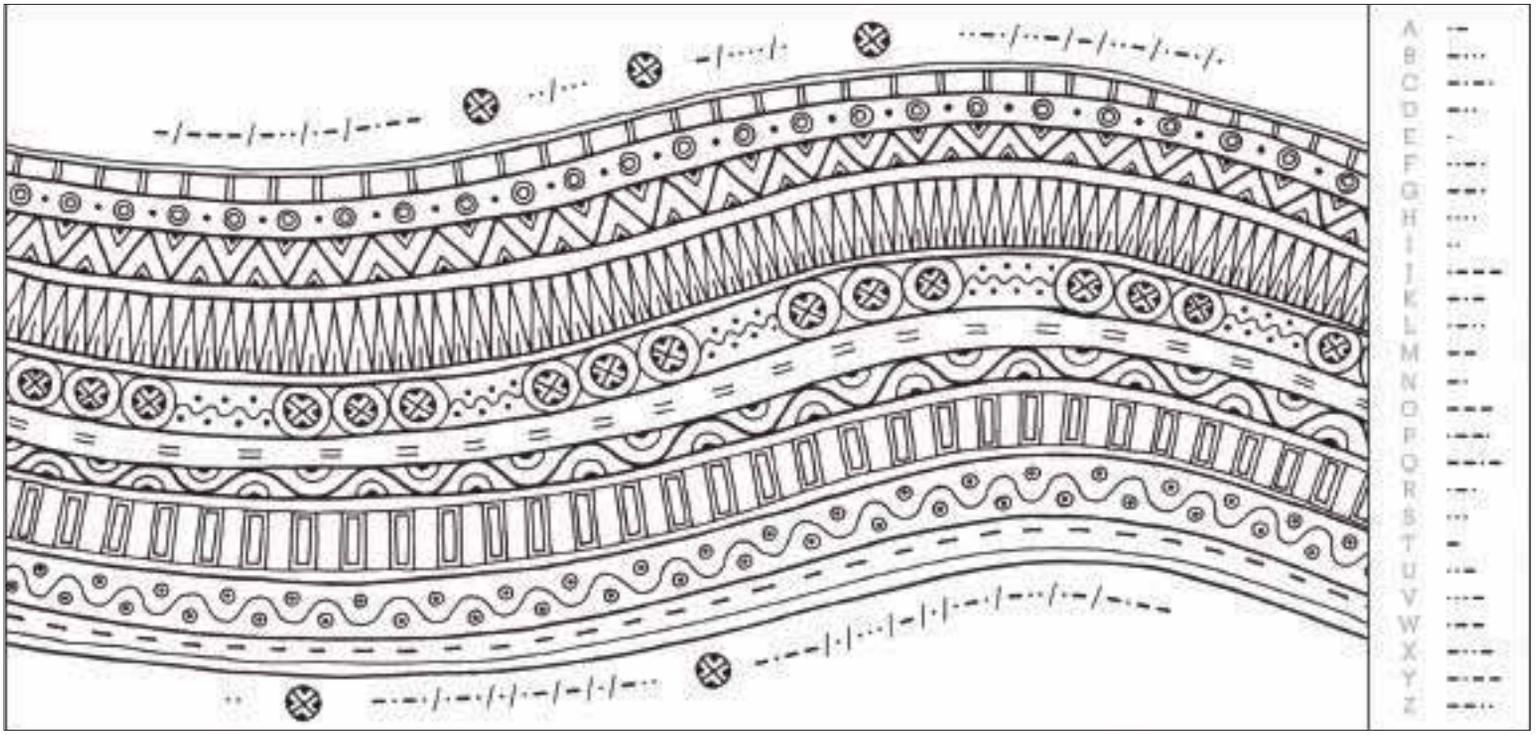

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